

# PO909-20 Justice and Equality

**24/25**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Katy Wells

**Credit value**

20

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This masters level module covers prominent debates about justice and equality within contemporary moral and political theory. A central focus of the module is on the ideal of equality. This ideal has been elaborated and defended by the world's leading political philosophers over the past four decades. The module examines some of the most prominent accounts of equality, and considers whether it ought to figure in our practical deliberations, and, if so, how. It is designed to develop your skills in the identification, interpretation and evaluation of relevant texts in contemporary political philosophy.

The focus of the first part of the module is some of the leading proponents of egalitarian justice in recent political philosophy. The second part of the module will cover selected debates concerning the potential implications of (egalitarian) justice for public policy and individual action, such as the following: What does justice demand with respect to the distribution of education? Does achieving racial equality require the pursuit of policies of integration? Should relational egalitarians care about "microaggressions"?

### Module aims

The aims of the module are:

- To enable students to understand and evaluate some of the central conceptions of egalitarian justice within recent moral and political theory
- To develop students' understanding of some key questions that arise in theorizing justice and equality
- To develop students' skills in the identification and interpretation of relevant texts in normative inquiry
- To foster the ability to analyse and evaluate opposing normative arguments

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

During the module, we will study topics such as the following: John Rawls, Justice as Fairness and the Difference Principle; John Tomasi's Free Market Fairness; Ronald Dworkin and Elizabeth Anderson; Social Inequality and Discrimination; Justice & Race; Educational Justice.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the most prominent conceptions of egalitarian justice in recent moral and political theory
- Analyse and evaluate at an advanced level opposing normative arguments concerning justice and equality
- demonstrate enhanced key skills such as written and oral communication skills, problem solving, working with others, and information technology skills
- devise a viable research essay topic relevant to the module
- construct and substantiate a comprehensive and sophisticated argument

## Indicative reading list

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice; John Tomasi, Free Market Fairness, Elizabeth Anderson, "What Is The Point of Equality?", Miranda Fricker, Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing; Adam Swift, How not to be a hypocrite: school choice for the morally perplexed parent; Elizabeth Anderson, The Imperative of Integration.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Subject specific skills

By the end of the modules students will be able to:

Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the most prominent conceptions of egalitarian justice in recent moral and political theory

Analyse and evaluate at an advanced level opposing normative arguments concerning justice and

equality

Demonstrate enhanced key skills such as written and oral communication skills, problem solving, working with others, and information technology skills

Devise a viable research essay topic relevant to the module

Construct and substantiate a comprehensive and sophisticated argument

## Transferable skills

Advanced critical thinking and analytical skills, such as identifying premises and conclusions of arguments; determining whether the conclusions follow from the premises; and understanding the practical implications of theoretical commitments.

Advanced oral and written communication skills: constructing a case for a particular position, and defending a particular viewpoint, both orally and in writing.

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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required                   |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Seminars      | 9 sessions of 2 hours (8%) |
| Private study | 200 hours (92%)            |
| Total         | 218 hours                  |

### Private study description

All students are expected to prepare thoroughly for the seminar, by reading the core texts and reflecting on the seminar questions. They will also be expected to prepare and write their assessment essay.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

|                                       | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Assessment component</b>           |           |            |                                 |
| Written Assignment<br>5000 word essay | 100%      |            | Yes (extension)                 |

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Written feedback will be provided on the assessment.

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)

This module is Optional for:

- TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
  - Year 1 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
  - Year 2 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PA MA in International Politics and Europe
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P3 Postgraduate Taught International Political Economy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PA MA in International Politics and Europe
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list B for:

- TPOS-M9PV Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies (with Monash University)
  - Year 1 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
  - Year 2 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91G International Security (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PR Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research